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Message Text

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TAGS:PEPR, TZ

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON PARIS AND BRUSSELS MEETINGS

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT NOON BRIEFING ON MAY 31:

Q. COULD YOU DISCUSS U.S. THINKING ABOUT AN INTER-AFRICAN SECURITY FORCE? PARIS MEETING?

A. SINCE THERE HAS BEEN CONFUSION ON THIS MATTER, LET ME TRY TO BE AS SPECIFIC AS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT: OUR DISCUSSIONS TO DATE HAVE FOCUSED ON THE QUESTION OF ZAIRE. THE FRENCH HAVE CALLED A MEETING FOR JUNE 5 IN PARIS TO DISCUSS ZAIRE ALONE IN AN EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT WORKABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE KATANGAN INVASION. WE HAVE BEEN
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INVITED ALONG WITH THE UK, FRANCE AND BELGIUM. OBVIOUSLY THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF ZAIRE WERE EXACERBATED BY THE INVASION INTO ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE, AND THE MEETING IN PARIS WILL SERVE AS PREPARATION FOR A MEETING SCHEDULED IN BRUSSELS THE FOLLOWING WEEK ON THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION IN ZAIRE.

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Q. DO YOU EXPECT THE SECURITY OF ZAIRE AND A POSSIBLE

INTERNATIONAL FORCE WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED IN PARIS?

A. WE FIND THE CONCEPT OF AN AFRICAN FORCE STATIONED IN SHABA A POSSIBILITY WORTH CONSIDERING. WE PLAN TO INVESTIGATE THIS AND OTHER OPTIONS IN DETAIL WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ARRIVING AT A JOINT COORDINATED WESTERN APPROACH WITH RESPECT TO ZAIRE. THE PARIS MEETING WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT. THE CONCEPT OF AN INTER-AFRICAN SECURITY FORCE TO MEET THE MORE GENERAL CONCERN AMONG AFRICAN STATES ABOUT THEIR SECURITY AND STABILITY IS A SEPARATE QUESTION WHICH WILL NOT BE PART OF THE AGENDA AT THESE MEETINGS.

Q. WHO WILL REPRESENT THE U.S. IN PARIS?

A. UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVID NEWSOM.

Q. WHAT WOULD BE THE COMPOSITION OF THE U.S. DELEGATION?

A. IT IS YET TO BE DETERMINED, BUT IT WILL BE SMALL. WE EXPECT THAT MR. NEWSOM WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OR THREE USG OFFICIALS.

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2. FOR INFORMATION OF POST AND USE AS BACKGROUND: ONE OF THE CONCEPTS WHICH HAS BEEN RAISED BY OTHERS IS THAT OF AN INTER-AFRICAN SECURITY FORCE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO ZAIRE OR THE SHABA SITUATION. WE HAVE NO CLEAR PICTURE AS YET OF THE POSSIBLE MODALITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON THIS QUESTION. THIS MAY BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS WHICH WILL BE RAISED IN A PERIPHERAL MANNER DURING NEXT WEEK'S PARIS MEETING ON ZAIRE. SHOULD THIS QUESTION BE RAISED, WE WILL TAKE NOTE OF VARIOUS OPTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE ADVANCED. OBVIOUSLY, WE ARE UNABLE TO SAY AT THIS TIME WHAT THE U.S. ATTITUDE MIGHT BE ON PROPOSALS WHICH RELATE TO A GENERAL CONCERN BY AFRICAN STATES ABOUT THEIR SECURITY EXCEPT TO SAY THAT WE WOULD STUDY THE QUESTION CAREFULLY.
CHRISTOPHER

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